Resolution to End Age Restrictions for Emergency Contraception (EC) Access

WHEREAS the American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP) states that, “Quality healthcare in family medicine is the achievement of optimal physical and mental health through accessible, safe, cost-effective care that is based on best evidence”¹ and

WHEREAS the AAFP “supports the use of evidence-based and explicitly stated clinical practice guidelines” that are “developed using rigorous evidence-based methodology,”² and

WHEREAS the AAFP opposes all discrimination in any form, including but not limited to, that on the basis of . . . age,”³ and

WHEREAS the current age restriction on the over-the-counter sale of emergency contraception (EC) has been repeatedly shown to have no basis in scientific evidence, which indicates that adolescents are capable of understanding the appropriate use of emergency contraception⁴ ⁵ and that the availability of emergency contraception is not linked to increased sexual activity or sexual risk-taking⁶ ⁷ ⁸ ⁹ and

WHEREAS emergency contraception has a limited effectiveness window, so it is extremely important that patients be able to access this medication without medically unnecessary delay, and

WHEREAS numerous professional bodies, including the American Academy of Pediatrics¹⁰, the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists¹¹, the Society of Adolescent Health and Medicine¹², the Association of Reproductive Health Professionals¹³, and the American Public Health Association¹⁴ have issued statements recognizing that EC is safe and effective for all females of reproductive age, and should be approved for over-the-counter access without age restriction, now be it

RESOLVED that the CAFP will advocate for emergency contraception to be available over-the-counter to all women of reproductive age, and be it further

RESOLVED that the CAFP will instruct its delegates to present this resolution to the AAFP Congress of Delegates.


Ibid.
